(b) the details of Package Asistance extended by the company during the said period to the artisans and results achieved with number of artisans so employed under this scheme;

(c) the details of employment generated by the company during the above period with percentage of employment of SC/ST communities people;

(d) whether the company has incurred the losses during the above period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The sales turnover achieved by Bharat Leather Corporation during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 was Rs. 501.97 lakhs, Rs. 618.59 lakhs and Rs. 654.46 lakhs, respectively.

(b) Under the Package Assistance Scheme, the artisans were provided with necessary infrastructure facilities and raw materials for production of footwear. The goods produced by the artisans were purchased by the Corporation and marketed. Around 200 artisans were employed under the Scheme. The value of footwear produced by the artisans was Rs. 138.15 lakhs during 1993-94, Rs. 193.00 lakhs during 1994-95 and Rs. 212.20 lakhs during 1995-96.

(c) The employment generated by the Company during the Three-year period was around 350, out of which 200 were artisans (96% of them belonging to SC/ST) under the Package Assistance Scheme and the remaining around 150 (29% of them belonging to SC/ST) were regular employees.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The net losses incurred were Rs. 124.68 lakhs during 1993-94, Rs. 152.31 lakhs during 1994-95, and Rs. 198.06 lakhs during 1995-96.

[Translation]

"World Bank Loan for Co-operative Sector"

1094. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank is providing financial assistance to cooperatives sector of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount released for Bihar during the last three years; and

(d) the areas/sectors for which the World Bank provide financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) World Bank assistance is given to projects in various sectors like Agriculture, Forestry, Irrigation and Water Supply, Power, Oil and Gas, Railways, Coal, Arban Development, Transport, Fertilizer, Industry etc.

Monitoring the Working of Non-Banking Financial Institutions

1095. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has opened any branch within any of its Banking Units to monitor the working of non-banking financial institutions in some States particularly in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints received by the said branches regarding the working of non-banking financial institutions so far; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that a Financial Companies Wing (FCW) has been set up in Ahmedabad Regional Office of Department of Supervision with effect from 1st January, 97 for exercising effective supervision over the non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) in the State of Gujarat and Union Territories of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The jurisdiction of the FCW at Ahmedabad has been carved out of the area under the jurisdiction of the FCW in Mumbai Regional Office. Prior to opening of the FCW at Ahmedabad, FCWs had been set up at the undernoted centres :

Sl. No.	Centre	Date of Opening	Area of Jurisdiction
1.	Chennai	1.10.1996	State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry.
2.	Thiruvananthapuram	1.10.1996	State of Kerala and Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

(c) and (d) Data with regard to number of complaints received so far by the Regional Offices of Department of Supervision regarding the working of NBFCs is not readily available with RBI. Prior to the promulgation of the Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, on 9th January, 1997. RBI did not have sufficient statutory powers to deal with the NBFCs against who complaints were received. RBI had been referring the complaints against NBFCs to the concerned companies for redressal of the grievances of the depositors.

Now under the provisions of RBI (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 RBI have been empowered to file an application for winding up of an NBFC under the provisions of Companies Act, if the company is inter

alia, unable to pay its debts or because disqualified to carry on business. Further the Company Law Board, constituted under the Companies Act, has been empowered to adjudicate and pass orders in case of non-repayment of deposits/interest by the NBFCs.

[English]

Smuggling of Opium

1096. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced recently new opium policy;

(b) whether the decision to lower the minimum qualifying yield requirement for opium cultivators is expected to flood the market with opium;

(c) whether excess production is likely to be diverted to the black market; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government's Opium Policy for the crop year 1996-97 was announced on 4th October, 1996.

(b) The Minimum Qualifying Yield for opium licence was raised from 46 kgs. per hectare to 48 kgs. per hectare for the states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and it was fixed at 40 kgs. per hectare for Uttar Pradesh as the latter has a relatively lower average yield. The relaxation in the Minimum Qualifying Yield was only in respect of a small percentage of cultivators who could not achieve the above target but undertook to fulfil it during the current crop year.

The above decision to retain the treditional poppy cultivators is not likely to encourage diversion of opium into illicit channel since the cultivators would stand to lose their licences permanently in that event.

(c) No Sir, under the provisions of the N.D.P.S. Act/ Rules, 1985, cultivators are required to tender their entire opium produce to the Govt. Failure to do so invites severe punishment under the Act, besides the liability of the cultivator to lose opium licence permanently.

(d) To ensure that opium is not diverted into illicit channel, an elaborate system of control is exercised over poppy growing areas which includes 100% measurement of poppy fields, test measurement by senior officials, constant monitoring of crop conditions and daily weighment of produce of each cultivator during the period of opium cultivation. The enforcement set up of the Central Bureau of Narcotics has also been strengthened by improving transport and communication net-work and setting up preventive intelligence cells in and around poppy growing areas. Enforcement operations and general vigil are intensified during the lancing period and collection of opium. In addition to departmental officers, other enforcement agencies and paramilitary forces are often engaged for the above purpose.

Illegal Assets of Jewellers

1097. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Illegal assets worth Rs. 10 crore seized from jewellers" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated October 16, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the quantity and value of illegal assets seized; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes sir. The Income-tax Department carried out searches at the premises of the following jewellers' group in October, 1996 :-

Name	Seizure (Rs. in lacs)
M/s. P.P. Jewellers	736.49
M/s. Sakun Chain Group	9.26
M/s. Rohtak Chains Company Group of Cases	2.90

(d) Necessary action as per provision of the Direct Tax Laws has been taken.

Spinning Mills

1098. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank funded spining mills located at Peddor village in Sri Saila Division of Karimnagar District have become sick;

(b) if so, the reasons for their sickness; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revive these mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Export to Agriculture

1099. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the share of the country in export of agricultural